

# stimulus news DIGEST

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## Recovery Project News

### **San Luis Obispo School Districts to Rehire**

**Teachers:** At least two local school districts will use federal stimulus money to rehire teachers and staff issued layoff notices last spring. The Lucia Mar Unified School District, the county's largest, will rehire about 80 staff and teachers, thanks in part to almost \$4 million in federal stimulus money. And it could hire back more, depending on how much money it ultimately gets. That means essentially everyone remaining on the school's layoff list could be rehired. Atascadero Unified School District Superintendent John Rogers estimated the district has hired back 15 full-time teachers and 17 nonteaching staff using part of \$1.2 million in federal stimulus money. The positions are spread across all campuses. Overall, the county expects to receive \$10.3 million from federal stimulus money for public schools. (*"San Luis Obispo School Districts to Rehire Teachers," The Tribune, 9/19/09*)

### **Portola Valley Schools May Go Solar with Federal**

**Stimulus Funds:** Portola Valley schools may go solar, thanks to a nearly \$3 million windfall from federal stimulus funds. A proposed project would install photovoltaic solar power systems at both Corte Madera and Ormondale schools, and be funded by up to \$2.85 million in tax credits from the Qualified School Construction Bonds program. The systems would generate enough power to cover 100 percent of the school's energy costs. (*"Portola Valley Schools May Go Solar with Federal Stimulus Funds," Almanac News, 9/17/09*)

### **UCI gets \$23.6 Million in Federal Stimulus Grants:**

UC Irvine was awarded \$23.6 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), with another \$3.4 million went to Cal State Fullerton. The majority of the money comes from the National Institutes of Health and will mostly underwrite science projects. Some samples of the grant money include a study how particles from vehicle traffic pollution

can cause oxidative stress in veins and arteries, thus accelerating the risk of heart attack and stroke, a study how anti-progesterone compounds could prevent or delay the growth of breast cancer, and continued research on the effects of nicotine abuse on memory. (*"UCI gets \$23.6 Million in Federal Stimulus Grants," OC Register, 9/17/09*)

### **Monterey County Gets \$1.44M for Probation**

**Center:** Monterey County will receive \$1.44 million in federal stimulus funds earmarked for establishing a day reporting center. There, former inmates on probation can receive counseling, life skills classes and job training to help them stay out of jail and reduce overcrowding. The two-year grant will pay for hiring nine employees, including a probation services manager. The center will be open seven days a week and be designed to serve an estimated 51 clients on a daily basis, with new participants rotating in as space is available. Counseling, classes and job training will be offered onsite, and clients could be referred to other services. Only "technical violators" who have not committed a new crime will be eligible for the program. Some prison parolees are expected to participate. (*"Monterey County Gets \$1.44M for Probation Center," Monterey County Herald, 9/16/09*)

### **CSU Seeks \$77.5M in Stimulus for Smart-Grid**

**Technology:** California State University is seeking \$77.5 million in federal economic stimulus funding from the U.S. Department of Energy in hopes of launching a demonstration project to install and study smart-grid technology across all 23 campuses. The stimulus funds would be combined with matching funds for a \$155 million Energy IQ demonstration project. The funds would pay for the installation of high-tech utility meters in 934 buildings, giving staff, faculty and system operators real-time information about the university system's energy

use. That knowledge could enable the university to find and eliminate inefficiencies. The projects are expected to reduce utility spending by between 15 percent and 20 percent, saving CSU \$20 million a year. (*"CSU Seeks \$77.5M in Stimulus for Smart-Grid Technology," Sacramento Business Journal, 9/15/09*)

**Navy Awards \$5.9M Solar Power Deal:** The Department of Defense said Sept. 14 that it awarded Syska Hennessy Group Construction a \$5.9 million task order to design and install a solar photovoltaic power system at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, in California's Mojave Desert. The firm previously won \$3 million in stimulus money to set up solar projects at Naval Air Station Lemoore, in California's San Joaquin Valley, and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. (*"Navy Awards \$5.9M Solar Power Deal," San Diego Business Journal, 9/14/09*)

**Improvements Road to Recovery:** Stimulus funds have allowed completion of Freeway 215 widening project. The work faced an uncertain future at the beginning of this year, but the nearly \$130 million investment - \$80.6 million from San Bernardino Associated Governments, the county's transportation planning agency, and another \$49 million from the California Transportation Commission allowed the work to continue. The project is expected to create up to 8,000 jobs over a four-year period. (*"Improvements Road to Recovery," The Sun, 9/12/09*)

**U.S. Cellular Applies for \$23.5M in Broadband Stimulus Grants:** U.S. Cellular applied for around \$23.5 million in grants from the government's broadband stimulus package. The carrier wants to expand 3G mobile broadband to rural areas in California, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The company said in each of its applications that it will provide broadband "largely over its existing wireless network." U.S. Cellular joins other smaller operators and telecom service providers, including Clearwire, Leap Wireless and Level 3 Communications, in applying for government funds. Major players in the telecom industry—including AT&T, Comcast and Verizon—decided not to apply for the grants due to several factors, including the net neutrality rules attached to the distribution of the funds. The government has allocated a total of \$7.2 billion for broadband stimulus projects as part of the \$787 billion economic stimulus package passed earlier this year. (*"U.S. Cellular Applies for \$23.5M in Broadband Stimulus Grants," Fierce Markets, 9/11/09*)

**First Highway Maintenance Stimulus Project Completed:** The first of many Highway Maintenance Stimulus projects scheduled for Caltrans' District 8 has been completed. In May, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded \$625 million to 57 transportation projects, including \$550,000 in American Recovery Reinvestment Act funds for the Highway 18 project. The San Bernardino Mountains project consisted of about 13 miles of asphalt replacement and began in late June and was completed late last month. (*"First Highway Maintenance Stimulus Project Completed," Rim of the World News, 9/10/09*)

**EPA Spotlights State 'Green' Projects in First 200 Days of Recovery Act:** California has received more than \$517 million in stimulus funds through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency projects. The projects include \$2.8 million for the California State Water Resources Control Board for water quality management planning, \$159 million to provide low-interest loans for drinking water systems through the California Department of Public Health, \$8.5 million to seven California Indian tribes for improved access to water services, including upgrades to wastewater treatment and sewer connections, \$1.73 million to the California Air Resources Board for clean diesel projects, \$15.5 million for a cooperative agreement with the California State Water Resources Control Board for assessment and clean-up of underground storage tank petroleum leaks, more than \$25.4 million in clean diesel recovery funds to replace, repower and retrofit engines in buses, heavy-duty trucks, locomotives, agricultural vehicles, construction vehicles, and cargo handling equipment in Southern California and the Bay Area and \$3.3 million to clean up brownfields sites contaminated by hazardous chemicals or pollutants. (*"EPA Spotlights State 'Green' Projects in First 200 Days of Recovery Act," The Santa Clara Signal, 9/8/09*)

**Stimulus Money Goes to Tahoe-area Highway Project:** About \$25 million in federal stimulus money will go to a Highway 89 project at Lake Tahoe. Plans call for the highway's shoulders to be widened between Luther Pass and U.S. 50, and for erosion control measures to improve water quality in the Tahoe basin. Caltrans spokeswoman Rochelle Jenkins says the 18-month project is expected to create about 450 jobs. Statewide, Caltrans expects to receive \$1.9 billion in federal stimulus money for 526 projects. (*"Stimulus Funds Going to Tahoe Highway," Reno Gazette-Journal, 9/6/09*)

**Sacto Public Housing To Get \$10M:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that the Sacramento Housing Authority will receive a grant award of \$10 million to make substantial improvements to public housing units in the City of Sacramento. HUD is awarding \$96 million in grants from a competitive application process to 15 public housing authorities nationwide to make substantial improvements to thousands of public housing units. Sacramento will use the funds to rehabilitate Riverview Apartments, a 12-story downtown building with 108 units for elderly residents. The building will undergo major repairs to mechanical and electrical systems and upgrades to the residential units. (*"Sacto Public Housing To Get \$10M," KCRA 3, 9/5/09*)

**California County's Library Gets \$165,000 in Stimulus Funds:** The Agriculture Department is giving \$165,000 to the Tulare County, Calif., library system in the latest chapter of the federal government's far-flung stimulus plan. Three grants of \$55,000 each will enable the county to renovate rural facilities in Earlimart and Ivanhoe and install an automated book checkout machine in Cutler. (*"California County's Library Gets \$165,000 in Stimulus Funds," McClatchy Newspapers, 9/4/09*)

**Labs Hire As Stimulus Money Pours In:** Unemployment just hit a 26-year high, but the health care and education sectors actually added about 52,000 jobs in August. The Boston Globe reports money being pumped into biomedical research as part of the federal stimulus package is spurring hiring in Massachusetts, second only to California in the number of extra grants from the National Institutes of Health. The NIH has an interactive map you can use to find the projects funded through the federal stimulus. (*"Labs Hire As Stimulus Money Pours In," NPR, 9/4/09*)

**Government-Sponsored EV Charging Could Impact Pricing:** The federal government made it clear that they want the upcoming plug-in and electric vehicles to succeed. The government has awarded \$2.4 billion in stimulus funds for the manufacture of vehicles and their components as well as to establish a vehicle charging infrastructure. Among the grants is funding for establishing 12,500 charging stations across five states. Another 2,550 charging stations could be built in the San Diego area alone thanks to \$8 million in funds from the California Energy Commission. (*"Government-Sponsored EV Charging Could Impact Pricing," Reuters, 9/3/09*)

**Biden: Stimulus Doing More Than We Had Hoped:** Vice President Joe Biden says the \$787 billion economy stimulus "is in fact working" despite public skepticism and continuing criticism. Biden gave an upbeat assessment of the massive package's results on Thursday, 200 days after it was signed. Economists say the country is slowly breaking free of the most crippling recession in decades. Citing a scorecard, Biden says that over the past 100 days, using stimulus money, the administration has met its goals of paying for 135,000 education jobs and hiring or keeping 5,000 police. Other goals have been exceeded, he said, from the number of highway projects to new water systems to health centers. (*"Biden: Stimulus Doing More Than We Had Hoped," Associated Press, 9/3/09*)

**Fremont Solar Panel Firm Solyndra to get U.S. Loan Guarantee:** A Fremont, Calif., company that makes solar panels will receive a \$535-million federal loan guarantee, allowing it to finish the first phase of construction of a factory. The expansion is expected to create as many as 3,000 construction jobs and 1,000 long-term jobs. The news is welcome for Fremont, a Bay Area city of 215,000 that was stung recently when Toyota Motor Corp. said it would shut next year a Fremont plant it has run with General Motors Corp. for 25 years. (*"Fremont Solar Panel Firm Solyndra to get U.S. Loan Guarantee," Los Angeles Times, 9/3/09*)

